



M O N T A N A  
COALITION AGAINST  
DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL  
V I O L E N C E

TO: Senate Judiciary Committee  
FROM: Kelsen Young, Executive Director  
Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence  
DATE: February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
RE: SB 385 - Criminalizing involuntary servitude and trafficking in persons

SENATE JUDICIARY  
Exhibit No. 2  
Date 2-6-07  
Bill No. SB 385

\*\*\*\*\*

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Kelsen Young and I am the Executive Director of the Montana Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. We are a membership-based organization consisting of domestic and sexual violence service providers and programs across the state of Montana. I am here to encourage you to pass SB 385.

Trafficked persons, lured to the U.S. by economic hardships in their home country, are deceived by their traffickers into promises of steady work, a good pay, and a better life. The trafficker may even be an international mail-order bride agency recruiting poor women in other countries to marry American men. The truth is that trafficked persons may be forced into marriage, prostitution, pornography, or other forms of commercial sexual activity. Women and children who are trafficked for exploitive labor are commonly exposed to sexual violence. Unfortunately, due to the secretive nature of these industries, these victims are often invisible in our communities.

Victims of human trafficking are often isolated from the community because they are confined to one area, not allowed to leave the home, and/or cannot speak English. Thus the abuse goes unreported and the victims have a nearly impossible time escaping the abuse. In domestic violence situations, abusers often use their partner's immigration status as a tool to control their partner, forcing them to stay in the relationship. SB 385 offers protections to victims of trafficking by making this modern-day slavery a crime and enhancing federal statutes already in place to protect these victims.

Montana must do all that it can to protect all victims of violence regardless of their immigration or legal status in this country. SB 385 will not only provide for these protections, but will send the message that slavery will not be tolerated in Montana. Please pass SB 385. Thank you.

Post Office Box 818  
Helena, Montana 59624  
406.443.7794  
FAX: 406.443.7818  
mcadsv@mt.net  
www.mcadsv.com